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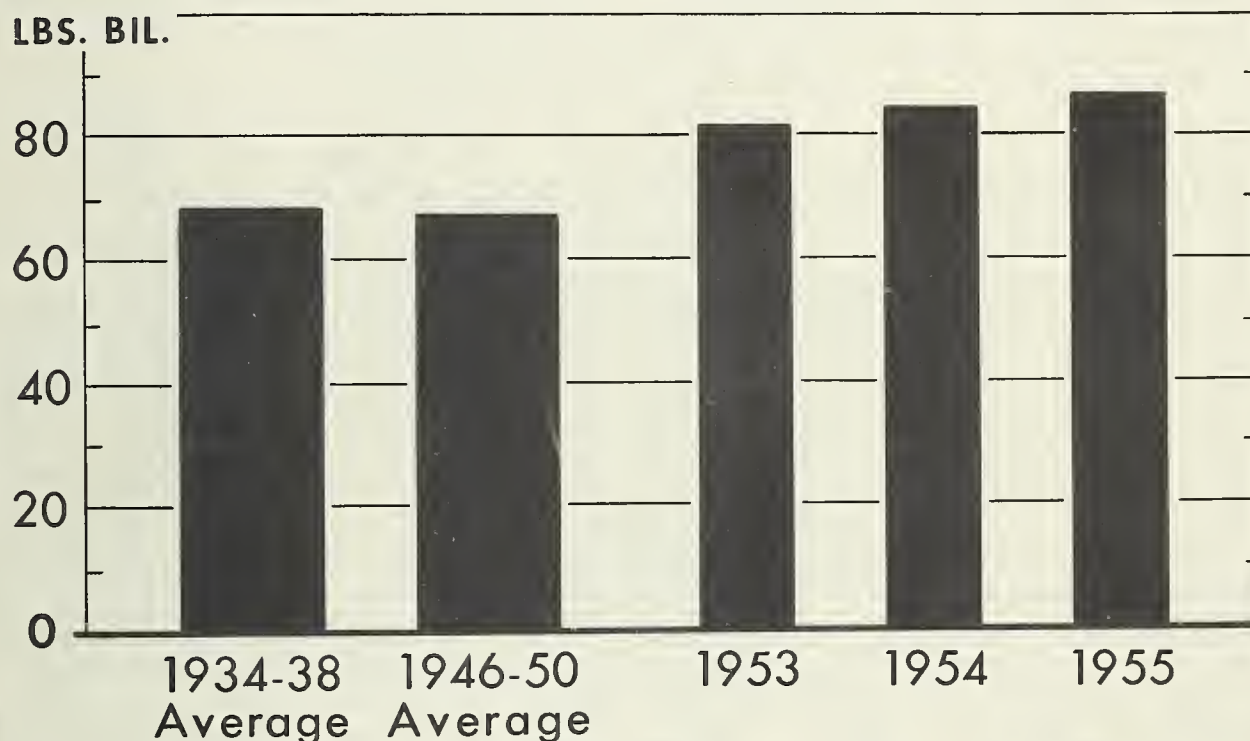
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FLM 11-56

July 5, 1956

WORLD MEAT PRODUCTION IN 1955

WORLD MEAT PRODUCTION*



*CARCASS MEAT-EXCLUDES OFFAL, LARD, RABBIT AND POULTRY MEAT. TOTAL FOR 41 OR 42 COUNTRIES WHICH PRODUCE AROUND 93 PERCENT OF THE WORLD OUTPUT EXCLUSIVE OF COMMUNIST CHINA.

USDA

FAS-NEG. 862

Meat production in the principal livestock producing countries of the world, exclusive of the Far East, was approximately 86.5 billion pounds in 1955. This is a new record which exceeds production in prewar by 27 percent, 1946-50 by 29 percent, and 1954 by 3 percent. The strong demand for meat with favorable prices and favorable growing conditions during the past few years has encouraged livestock producers to expand breeding and feeding operations.

Meat output is now substantially above the 1946-50 average in Eastern and Western Europe, the U.S.S.R., Australia, New Zealand, and North America. However, production in South America is below the 1946-50 average.

Meat production in North America, largely due to strong demand and favorable pasture and crop conditions increased 6 percent in 1955 and was 20 percent larger than the postwar average. Production in the United States established a new record of nearly 27 billion pounds, and production in Canada of 2.3 billion was the largest in about 10 years. Output in Cuba and Mexico continued to increase in 1955.

Production in Western Europe increased only slightly in 1955. Fairly large increases occurred in Norway, the Netherlands, Sweden, West Germany, Greece, and Yugoslavia. Moderate gains in output occurred in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Portugal and Switzerland. Meat production declined from the 1954 level in Finland, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Meat 1/: Summary of World Production, 1955 with Comparisons

Continent or Area	Averages			Prelim. 1955	Increase (+) or Decrease (-)	
	1934-38	1946-50	1954		1955	1955
					1946-50	1955
	- - - Million pounds - - -				- - - Percent - - -	
North America 2/.....	18,606	25,764	29,146	30,947	+ 20	+ 6
Europe 3/.....	27,215	20,069	29,729	29,959	+ 49	+ 1
U. S. S. R.	8,775	4/	4/	4/	-	-
Middle East 5/.....	1,115	1,327	1,648	4/	-	-
Republic of Philippines	209	125	196	207	+ 66	+ 6
South America 6/	8,358	10,054	9,777	9,807	- 2	-
Union of South Africa :	671	917	1,025	970	+ 6	- 5
Oceania 7/.....	3,211	3,338	3,946	4,134	+ 24	+ 5
Total 8/	68,160	67,094	84,242	86,522	+ 29	+ 3

1/ Carcass meat - excludes offal, lard, rabbit and poultry meat. 2/ Canada, Mexico, United States and Cuba. 3/ Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Western Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Eastern Germany, Hungary, Poland, and Rumania. 4/ Estimates included in the total. 5/ Egypt, Turkey, Iraq, and Iran. 6/ Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay and Uruguay. 7/ Australia and New Zealand. 8/ Total for 42 countries as listed above. During 1938, 41 of these countries produced an estimated 66.3 billion pounds of meat out of an estimated total of 70 billion pounds for 67 countries, excluding China. It is estimated that 42 countries produce 93 percent of the world meat output, exclusive of China.

MEAT 1/ Preliminary estimate of production of beef and veal, pork, mutton, lamb and goat meat, and total meat in specified countries in 1955, with comparison

Country	Beef and Veal			Pork (excluding lard)			Mutton, Lamb and Goat			Total 2/			1955 as percent of		
	Average:			Average:			Average:			Average:			1946-50		
	1946-50:	1954	1955 3/	1946-50:	1954	1955 3/	1946-50:	1954	1955 3/	1946-50:	1954	1955 3/	1946-50	1954	1955 3/
	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Percent	Percent	Percent
North America:															
Canada	1,043:	1,255:	1,279	956	917	1,019	54	31	34	2,053:	2,203:	2,332	114	114	106
Mexico	723:	770:	747	262	334	368	50	50	45	1,035:	1,162	1,162	112	112	101
United States	10,978:	14,647:	15,212	10,541	9,932	11,016	743	734	758	22,262:	25,333:	26,986	121	121	107
Cuba	375:	370:	380	37	82	85	2	2	2	114:	454:	467	113	113	103
Europe:															
Austria	158:	267:	263	232	392	418	10	4	4	407:	674:	696	171	171	103
Belgium	238:	387:	405	267	387	401	7	6	5	559:	840:	864	155	155	103
Denmark 4/	327:	419:	466	520	1,110:	1,127	7	2	2	884:	1,570:	1,621	183	183	103
Finland	91:	116:	128	109	134	116	11	17	14	279:	266	266	121	121	95
France 4/	1,937:	2,998:	3,108	1,350	1,830	1,875	150	243	254	3,613:	5,269:	5,435	150	150	103
Germany, Western	1,728:	1,728:	1,684	5/ 1,530	2,865	3,285	5/ 50	59	53	2,705:	4,722:	5,078	198	198	108
Greece	30:	32:	36	35	45	46	96	127	132	161:	204:	214	133	133	105
Ireland	158:	208:	208	129	218	218	40	48	104	327:	474:	474	145	145	-
Italy	522:	905:	922	635	690	650	104	106	104	1,296:	1,766:	1,750	135	135	99
Netherlands	227:	440:	452	294	661	733	13	16	12	555:	1,115:	1,222	220	220	110
Norway	87:	116:	134	70	95	107	30	37	37	193:	248:	278	144	144	112
Portugal	62:	91:	93	215	220	225	47	53	54	324:	364:	372	115	115	102
Sweden 4/	261:	276:	333	341	417	409	7	4	4	637:	722:	774	122	122	107
Switzerland	173:	213:	206	148	216	224	4	7	8	336:	444:	447	133	133	101
United Kingdom	1,230:	1,672:	1,540	500	1,570	1,580	305	457	387	2,035:	3,699:	3,507	172	172	95
Yugoslavia	217:	239:	247	421	446	485	127	148	159	784:	855:	891	114	114	104
Asia:															
Turkey	5/ 208:	308:	308	-	-	-	5/ 307	385	-	5/ 515:	693:	-	135	135	-
Japan	110:	135:	179	49	130	141	neg:	-	-	181:	298:	347	192	192	116
Philippines, Rep. of 5/	33:	45:	48	5/ 87	144	154	5/ 3	4	3	125:	196:	207	166	166	106
South America:															
Argentina	4,284:	3,957:	4,189	391	298	315	540	259	287	5,215:	4,514:	4,791	92	92	106
Brazil 6/	2,114:	2,376:	2,376	512	571	571	69	86	-	2,695:	3,033:	-	114	114	101
Chile	280:	280:	280	52	52	52	94	-	-	426:	-	-	99	99	-
Colombia	635:	635:	635	75	-	-	35	-	-	745:	-	-	104	104	-
Paraguay	210:	210:	210	-	-	-	-	-	-	230:	210:	-	91	91	-
Uruguay	543:	662:	401	36	33	37	164	132	139	743:	827:	577	78	78	70
Africa:															
Union of South Africa:	650:	710:	650	82	95	95	185	220	225	917:	1,025:	970	106	106	95
Oceania:															
Australia	1,226:	1,621:	1,710	210	204	217	701	857	859	2,137:	2,682:	2,786	130	130	104
New Zealand 7/	409:	445:	498	84	85	84	708	734	766	1,201:	1,261:	1,348	112	112	107

1/ Carcass meat basis - excludes offal and lard. 2/ Includes horsemeat in addition to types shown in other columns, if it is produced in quantity. 3/ Preliminary. 4/ Includes carcass weight equivalent of live animals exported. 5/ Average for less than five years. 6/ Excludes farm production. 7/ Years ending September 30.

Compiled from official sources, reports of Agricultural Attaches and other United States representatives abroad. Data for countries having changed boundaries relate to present territory. Foreign Agricultural Service May, 1956.

Meat production in the U.S.S.R. apparently has increased materially since the end of World War II. According to a published report of the First Secretary of the Communist Party, production in 1955 was 30 percent larger than in 1950 and 8 percent more than in 1953. According to that source, production in the country has increased each year since 1951.

Apparently meat production in South America increased slightly in 1955 primarily because of partial recovery from the drought and some attempt at regaining export markets. Production in Argentina increased 6 percent and some increase occurred in Brazil. In 1955 production in Uruguay was sharply lower than a year earlier.

Meat production in the Union of South Africa declined moderately in 1955 reflecting a decline in cattle marketings before price ceilings on beef and cattle were removed. Production in Australia and New Zealand, attributed largely to strong demand, increased 4 and 7 percent, respectively. Output of meat in Australia is now 30 percent above the 1946-50 average and is up 12 percent in New Zealand.

Output in the Philippine Republic has increased sharply since the end of World War II, and in 1955 was almost equal to the prewar average. Production in Japan has also increased substantially since the end of the war. Japan's output in 1955 of 347 million pounds was 16 percent larger than a year earlier, mainly because of the increased slaughter of young animals no longer needed for draft purposes.

Addituonal details for important producing countries are as follows:

Argentina

The controlled slaughter in 1955 was in excess of 6.4 million head, and when the customary estimate for farm and independent small butcher kill is added the total kill was estimated at 9.2 million head. Sheep slaughter in 1955 was the highest since 1949 while hog slaughter increased only slightly over 1954. Slightly higher prices and a change in government policy have encouraged larger marketings of livestock especially during the second half of the year.

Australia

Meat production during 1955 was somewhat larger than a year earlier, due primarily to increased prices and improved crop and pasture situation. Mutton production was about 1 percent higher than in 1954, but veal and lamb production both dropped about 2 percent. Pork production, owing to increased domestic demand, was 14 percent higher, while bacon and ham production remained at the previous year's level, showing an increase of only a fraction of one percent.

New Zealand

There was a marked increase in beef, veal, lamb and mutton production, but pork production decreased. This was largely due to the strong demand for these products by the United Kingdom. Favorable pasture conditions during the year contributed to the increased output.

Mexico

The present decline in cattle and sheep slaughter is considered only temporary because of government controls and recovering from the effects of foot-and-mouth disease. Mexico is expected to resume its upward trend during 1956. Hog slaughter was larger during 1955, and current demand indicates a continued rise in 1956. Goat slaughter has been declining during recent years and is likely to continue.

Brazil

Conditions for pork production were less favorable in 1955, due mainly to limited supplies of corn and other hog feed during the second half of the year. Livestock and meat supplies are expected to be more plentiful in 1956 but at generally firm prices. Hog and pork prices, now at an all-time high, may decline somewhat in the face of larger numbers expected in the second half of 1956.

Canada

The Canadian livestock industry fared well in 1955 and present indications are that 1956 will be another good year. Total livestock numbers at the end of 1955 were the highest in several years. The total slaughter of cattle, hogs and sheep in 1955 was 11 percent larger than the previous year.

Cuba

Cattle slaughter in 1955 increased approximately 2 percent over 1954. Pork production increased slightly while output of mutton, lamb and goat meat remained nearly equal to the 1954 production.

Denmark

The total production of red meat during 1955 was approximately 3 percent larger than the preceding year. Continuation of relatively favorable prices and reasonable feed prices contributed to the large production.

France

In, 1955, meat production was up 3 percent over 1954. Government export subsidy and favorable crop and pasture growing conditions were the principal factors which enhanced their output. France is expected to maintain the same production level through 1956.

Sweden

The relatively large increase in the price of livestock products in combination with lower prices of commercial feed have increased the profitability of livestock production. Farmers will attempt to maintain this production but are at present severely handicapped by the shortage of feed.

Norway

Meat production in 1955 increased about 12 percent because of heavy slaughterings as a result of last summer's drought and the change over in certain regions from dairying to grain production. The over-production of beef in the fall resulted in marketing problems which were solved in part through exports, mainly to Czechoslovakia, and through an increase in domestic consumption.

As feed supplies on many farms were exhausted in early 1956, slaughterings again exceeded domestic demand. The situation was complicated by the fact that storage space was filled to capacity. The Norwegian Meat Marketing Cooperative was actively seeking export outlets.

Netherlands

There was a marked increase in beef and veal and pork production in 1955 while mutton, lamb, and goat production decreased. Relatively higher prices resulting from increased demand were largely responsible for larger output.

Greece

Weather conditions during 1955 favored livestock production. The natural vegetation was sufficient to provide adequate pasturage for animals carried on rangelands and under nomadic conditions.

Increased availability of animals and increased demand raised the total slaughterings in 1955 to the highest point since the war. This upward trend is expected to continue in 1956.

Austria

In 1955 beef and veal production showed a slight decrease from 1954, while pork production rose by 7 percent. Increased pork production was due to government price policies which resulted in hog numbers reaching an all-time high, exceeding the 1938 figure by 2 percent and the 1954 numbers by 5 percent.

On an average the 1955 meat supplies were relatively adequate. There were neither serious shortages, with sharp increases in prices, nor periods of critical oversupply with declining prices and resultant losses to producers.

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